
From: Barbara Weitzer [<mailto:weitzer@erols.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 10:50 AM
To: 'Richard M. Walter'
Cc: Criss, Jeremy
Subject: RE: AAC Letter to the University of MD-Board of Regents

Rick,
That's fine to share with your immediate leadership.
Thanks,
Dave

From: Richard M. Walter [<mailto:rwalter3@umd.edu>]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 9:54 AM
To: Barbara Weitzer
Cc: jeremy.criss@montgomerycountymd.gov
Subject: RE: AAC Letter to the University of MD-Board of Regents

David,
Thank you for sharing. With your permission, I would like to share this email and letter with my immediate leadership.
Thank all of you for your concern and commitment to ensuring the viability of UME now and for the future.
Thank you, David,
Rick

From: Barbara Weitzer [<mailto:weitzer@erols.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 9:47 AM
To: Richard M. Walter
Cc: 'Criss, Jeremy'
Subject: AAC Letter to the University of MD-Board of Regents

Hello Rick,

As you know, I am the Chairman of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee and the President of the Montgomery County Extension Advisory Committee.

During July and August meetings of the AAC, we have been discussing the budget reductions imposed on Extension. Please know that Chuck Schuster was not able to attend the July AAC meeting and we asked that Chuck be excused from discussion during the August AAC meeting. Gary Marx is a non-farmer member of the AAC and he is also a member of the Maryland Agriculture Commission. Gary volunteered to draft the attached AAC letter summarizing what Dean Wei has explained regarding the nature of the budget cuts. The letter supports the mission of Extension but questions the decisions made by the administration at the University of Maryland. The letter has been mailed and we wanted you to have a copy. It is attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
David Weitzer

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Poolesville, MD 20837  
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Mobile 301.943.2500



## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 30, 2013

Dear University of Maryland Board of Regents:

|                                             |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| James L. Shea, Chair                        | Earl F. Hance, ex officio           |
| Barry P. Gossett, Vice-Chair                | The Honorable Francis X. Kelly, Jr. |
| Gary L. Attman, Treasurer                   | David Kinkopf                       |
| Linda R. Gooden, Assistant Treasurer        | Robert D. Rauch                     |
| The Honorable C. Thomas McMillen, Secretary | Dr. Frank M. Reid, III              |
| Thomas G. Slater, Assistant Secretary       | Tracye C. Turner                    |
| Norman R. Augustine                         | Paul L. Vance                       |
| Dr. Patricia S. Florestano                  | Samim Manizade, Student Regent      |
| Louise Michaux Gonzales                     |                                     |

RE: University of MD-Extension

The Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC is very much concerned regarding the level of funding that is allocated to the University of Maryland-Extension. The University of Maryland's primary mission includes research and teaching, but it also has a third critical mission—Agricultural Extension. As a land-grant institution, the University is obligated to provide educational programming and services on a wide range of human, plant, and animal issues in both urban and rural areas. As demonstrated by the July 2013 University of MD publication, Agriculture is Maryland's number one industry an 8.25 Billion dollar industry supported by the University of MD-Extension.

Recently, however, we have seen Extension in Maryland in general, and in our area specifically lose valuable, knowledgeable and experienced staff and they have not been replaced. In addition, there has been a significant reduction in programming and available services. We have been told that the reason for this decline in staff, programming and services is a lack of funding caused, in part, by the University's decision to treat Extension the same as all other academic departments with respect to budget cuts. In other words, it is our understanding that the University decided that Extension should suffer the same percentage decreases in funding as any other academic department. In addition, we have been told that the factors used by the University for any exceptions to "across the board" cuts disfavor Extension. If what we have been told is correct, this Committee believes the University's decision was short sighted from an economic perspective and fails to appreciate the unique and important role of Extension and the land-grant Universities.

While Extension is entitled to equal status with the University's other missions, this Committee believes that Extension should not have been treated the same for budget purposes and that any exceptions to "across the board" budgets cuts should have favored—not disfavored—Extension. In our view, the University must fulfill its role as a land-grant institution and is obligated to recognize the distinct purpose of Extension that the land grant college institutions were founded upon. This Committee believes the University mistakenly treated Extension as just another academic program within the University. To the contrary, Extension should have been recognized as unique among the University's missions and that the University should have adopted alternative financial measures in order to ensure that Extension would have the funding required to provide adequate staffing, programming and services.

This Committee acknowledges the financial difficulties which have been imposed on the University. Nevertheless, this Committee believes that the University has failed to appreciate the economic harm caused by the reduction in funding for Extension. We further believe that the University's failure to provide adequate funding for Agricultural Extension brings into question the University's responsibilities as a land-grant institution.

Accordingly, this Committee is requesting the University to reconsider how it has implemented budgetary cuts and commit to ensuring that Agricultural Extension will in the future have sufficient resources to provide the programming to which Marylanders are entitled to receive from a premier land-grant institution and its number one industry-Agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Weitzer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

David Weitzer, Chairman

cc: William E. (Brit) Kirwan, Ph.D., Chancellor & Chief Executive Officer  
Dr. Wallace D. Loh, President  
Mary Ann Rankin, Senior Vice President and Provost  
Cheng-I Wei, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dean